

D 8968

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI
File No.

S.1, Special Branch *8968*

REPORT

Date January 19, 1939.

Subject U.S. Surgeon Lieut. Powell, Room 813, Park Hotel - Molestation
by means of menacing telephone calls. etc.

Made by D.S.I. Logan

Forwarded by *C. Crawford J. D.*

At 11 a.m. January 19, 1939, Capt. L. Crommiller, Jr., Law Officer, U.S. Fourth Marines, called at the Special Branch and made the following complaint :-

Recently a Russian Jewess, namely, Dora Esthir Gurevich, age about 24, brought a civil action in the local U.S. Court against U.S. Surgeon Lieut. Powell, Room 813, Park Hotel, charging him with having raped her in Hankow in March, 1938 as a result of which she became pregnant. The charge was dismissed by the U.S. Court on January 11, 1939. Since the latter date Surgeon Lieut. Powell has been molested by means of numerous telephone calls received at his room in the Park Hotel from unknown persons, both male and female, who without making direct threats of physical violence against him, succeeded in injecting a certain menacing tone into their communications. These communications never come to the point but usually ^{look} take the form of :-
"I want to see you on the Bund immediately, it is important that you come right away" etc.

Requests by Surgeon Lieut. Powell that the speaker should come to see him in his room or state his or her identity always resulted in the individual concerned hanging up the phone.

Capt. Crommiller stated that he did not wish any Court case to ensue as Surgeon Lieut. Powell had suffered enough embarrassment already but wished to know if steps could be taken to put a stop to the systemised molestation.

There is good reason to believe that a sister of Miss Gurevich, namely, Mrs. Adel Borisovna Murphy, wife of

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date19

Subject.....

Made by.....

Forwarded by.....

- 2 -

an official of the Standard Oil Co., Pootung, and her brother who was recently released from Ward Road Gaol, namely, Mark Borisovich Gurevich, are the persons responsible for the molestation. Surgeon Lieut. Powell is in considerable fear of physical violence as the Gurevich family has rather a shady reputation locally.

Owing to the difficulty of effectively checking telephone calls to a place like the Park Hotel it was suggested that Lieut. Powell should make arrangements to have all telephone calls to the Park Hotel referred to Tel. No.78005 (Capt. Crommiller's private telephone) and that arrangements should be made with the Telephone Co. to check all calls to the latter number and thereby trace the identity of the persons annoying Lieut. Powell, after which it should be possible to warn the persons concerned to desist.

W. Logan
D. S. I.

2BR.
P. A. to D. C. (Sp Br.) D.C. (Special Branch)
19/11

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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8968

Section 1, Special Branch
REPORT

Date January 20, 1939.

Subject (in full) U.S. Surgeon Lieut. Powell, Room 813, Park Hotel -
Molestation by means of menacing telephone calls, etc.

Made by D.S.I. Logan

Forwarded by

C. Crawford, J.I.

With reference to Special Branch report on the
above subject dated 19.1.39, and D.C. (Special Branch)'s
memo. dated 20.1.39 attached thereto, Capt. L. Cronmiller
Jr., Law Officer, Fourth U.S. Marines, was informed
along the lines indicated in D.C. (Special Branch)'s
memo. aforesaid, and in reply stated that he would advise
Lieut. Powell accordingly.

Logan

D. S. I.

FILE

P.A. to D.C. (Sp. Br.)

D.C. (Special Branch)